

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~Objective designed as a microlithography projection objective for an operating wavelength, A microlithography projection objective [-] having a greatest adjustable image-side numerical aperture NA, [- having]~~ at least one first lens made from a solid transparent body, ~~in particular glass or crystal~~, with a refractive index n_L , ~~[- having]~~ and at least one liquid lens (F) made from a transparent liquid, with a refractive index n_F ,

wherein, at the an operating wavelength of the objective, [-] the first lens has the greatest refractive index n_L of all solid lenses of the objective, [-] the refractive index n_F of the at least one liquid lens (F) is bigger than the refractive index n_L of the first lens, [-] and the value of the numerical aperture NA is bigger than 1.

2. (currently amended) ~~Objective The objective according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein, at the operating wavelength of the objective, the refractive indices n_F and n_L and the numerical aperture NA are related to each other according to $n_F > NA > n_L$.~~

3. (currently amended) ~~Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein, at the operating wavelength of the objective, the numerical aperture NA ≥ 1.4 .~~

4. (currently amended) ~~Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one liquid lens (F) is the a last curved optical element on the an image side of the objective.~~

5. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that wherein a plane-parallel plate (EP) is arranged between the at least one liquid lens (F) and the an image plane (IM) of the objective.
6. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to Claim 5, characterized in that wherein, at the operating wavelength of the objective, the refractive index n_{EP} of the a plane-parallel plate (EP) is greater than the refractive index n_F of the at least one liquid lens (F), in particular in that the plane-parallel plate consists of sapphire.
7. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one liquid lens (F) is essentially hemispherical and, in particular, has a thickness on the optical axis of the objective that is 80 to 110% of the radius of its curved surface.
8. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that it wherein the objective exhibits one or two intermediate images (IM1, IM2).
9. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that it wherein the objective is catadioptric.
10. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that it wherein the objective comprises an image-side objective part arranged at the an image-side end of the objective, and the image-side objective part being refractive.

11. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to Claim 10, characterized in that the wherein a pupil (P) of the image-side objective part is arranged between a lens at which the a traversing light bundle is of greatest diameter and the image plane (IM).

12. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that wherein a number plurality of meniscus lenses of positive refractive power, which have a concave shape on the an image side of the objective, are preceding precede the at least one liquid lens (F).

13. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that wherein a stop-down system aperture is arranged in an object-side objective part of the objective, which is the object-side objective part being located at the object-side end of the objective.

14. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that wherein, at the operating wavelength of the objective, the refractive index n_F of the at least one liquid lens (F) is bigger than 1.4, preferably equal to or bigger than 1.6.

15. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that it wherein the objective is a catadioptric objective for which all refracting or reflecting surfaces are rotationally symmetrical in relation to a common axis.

16. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that it wherein the objective is a catadioptric objective comprising a plurality of mirrors, and all the mirrors are curved.

17. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that it wherein the objective comprises a catoptric or catadioptric objective part.

18. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that it wherein the objective comprises a catadioptric objective part with a concave mirror and a negative lens.

19. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that it is wherein the objective comprises an immersion objective.

20. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that wherein at least one liquid lens (F) touches the an image plane (IM) and an object, if the object is arranged in the image plane in order to be exposed.

21. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to at least one of the preceding claims Claim 1, characterized in that it includes wherein the objective comprises an object-side last element made from a transparent solid body, in particular a plane parallel plate (EP) according to Claim 5 or 6, and in that a transparent medium with a refractive index $n_l > 1.1$ at the operating wavelength of the objective is arranged between this the object-side last element element and an object in the region of the image plane (IM).

22. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to Claim 21, characterized in that wherein, at the operating wavelength of the objective, it holds that $n_l = n_F$.

23. (currently amended) Objective The objective according to Claim 21 or Claim 22, characterized in that wherein, at the operating wavelength of the objective, it holds that $n_l \geq n_L$.

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24. (currently amended) Objective according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 21,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein a material of the first lens or further lenses is a material from the
group of fused silica and fluoride monocrystals comprising CaF₂, BaF₂, SrF₂, LiF, NaF.